Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel all pending claims, i.e. claims 1 – 29, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and please add new claims 30 – 62 as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-29 (Canceled).

30. (New) A device for steeping barley, comprising

a container structured and arranged for steeping barley having a floor,

passageways arranged in the floor for at least one of steeping water and gases to pass through; and

a water line system located under the floor and directly connected to the passageways.

31. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the water line system is structured to discharge water from the container through the passageways.

32. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the water line system is structured to supply water to the container through the passageways.

33. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the passageways include sieves.

34. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the container has a round shape when viewed from above, and wherein the passageways are arranged in radially oriented rows.

35. (New) The device according to claim 34, wherein adjacent radially oriented rows having varied lengths.

36. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the water line system comprises:

shared water line elements; and

water branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared water line elements.

37. (New) The device according to claim 36, wherein the shared water line elements are radially oriented.

38. (New) The device according to claim 36, wherein the shared water line elements are oriented between two adjacent, radially oriented rows of passageways when viewed from above.

39. (New) The device according to claim 36, further comprising a water line main element, wherein the shared water line elements are connected to the water main line element.

40. (New) The device according to claim 30, further comprising:

a reservoir for cleaning agents; and

a cleaning agent valve connecting the reservoir with the water line system to supply cleaning agent to the water line system.

41. (New) The device according claim 30, further comprising:

a CO_2 line system located under the floor being connected directly to the passageways for removing CO_2 from the container.

42. (New) The device according to claim 41, wherein the CO_2 line system comprises:

shared CO_2 line elements; and

CO_2 branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared CO_2 line elements.

43. (New) The device according to claim 42, further comprising a CO_2 main line element, wherein the shared CO_2 line elements are connected to the CO_2 main line element.

44. (New) The device according to claim 43, wherein the water line system further comprises:

shared water line elements; and

water branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared water line elements; and

the device further comprises common shared line elements formed at least in part by the shared water line elements and the shared CO_2 line elements.

45. (New) The device according to claim 44, further comprising common branch line elements, wherein the water branch line elements and the CO_2 branch line elements are formed at least in part by the common branch line elements.

46. (New) The device according to claim 44, further comprising water valves between the common shared line elements and the water main line element.

47. (New) The device according to claim 44, further comprising CO_2 valves between the common shared line elements and the CO_2 main line element.

48. (New) The device according to claim 30, further comprising:

an air line system connected under the floor to the passageways for passing air to the container.

49. (New) The device according to claim 48, wherein the air line system further comprises:

shared air line elements; and

air branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared air line elements.

50. (New) The device according to claim 49, wherein the shared air line elements and the air branch line elements are located under the floor.

51. (New) The device according to claim 49, further comprising an air main line element, wherein the shared air line elements are connected to the air main line element.

52. (New) The device according to claim 51, further comprising air valves between the shared air line elements and the air main line element.

53. (New) The device according to claim 52, further comprising a control system for controlling individual or group operation of the air valves.

54. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein the container further comprises:

a scraper body, positionable near an upper side of the container, structured and arranged to shift in a displacement direction along a surface of the water to one of scrape and collect elements circulating on a surface of the water.

55. (New) The device according to claim 54, wherein as the scraper body shifts in a displacement direction along the surface of the water, the control system opens at least one of the air valves directly preceding a front side of the scraper body when viewed from above in the displacement direction.

56. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the floor has a partially open, gas-permeable surface making up less than 5% of an overall floor surface.

57. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein the floor has a partially open, gas-permeable surface making up less than 3% of an overall floor surface.

58. (New) The device according to claim 41, wherein the water and CO_2 line systems are graduated.

59. (New) The device according to claim 48, wherein the water and air line systems are graduated.

60. (New) The device according to claim 41, wherein the water and CO_2 line systems are routed to outside the container.

61. (New) The device according to claim 48, wherein the water and air line systems are routed to outside the container.

62. (New) A method for steeping barley, comprising:

at least one of:

passing water through passageways in a floor of a container with barley to be steeped, and

passing gas through the passageways,

wherein a water and gas supply line system is located outside of the container.